

News Release

UMC Collegiate Crops Judging Team marks another successful year

By Chuck Habstritt on Wednesday, December 7, 2005

The University of Minnesota Crookston (UMC) Collegiate Crops Judging Team has a long history of success. This year's team, while smaller, is no exception. Crop judging teams usually consist of three members, but this year, UMC had only two: Rob Proulx from Crookston, MN and Tony Barteng from Roseau, MN.

It was the only team in the competition with two members, but the results of these two individuals were not diminished by their lack of a third team member. The team placed sixth overall in both the National Collegiate Crops Contests in Chicago and Kansas City. Rob Proulx received the second place award in both contests continuing UMC's legacy of success. Barteng placed 8th in seed analysis, 12th place in grain grading, and 13th in identification with an 11th place overall finish in Kansas City. He placed 8th in Chicago with an 8th place finish in grain grading a 10th place finish in seed analysis, and a 13th place finish in identification. Proulx placed 2nd in grain grading and seed analysis and third in identification for a second place finish in Chicago. He place 4th in grain grading, 2nd in seed analysis, and 3 in identification to finish in 2nd place in Kansas City. Both Barteng and Proulx are Plant Industries Management majors at UMC.

The intensive Collegiate Crops Contests have been held for over seventy years, and of those, UMC has competed 34 times. The Chicago contest began in 1923 and has been held every year except in 1929 and during World War II (1942 through 1946). The Kansas City Contest was held the first time in 1929 and held annually through 1941, but also was recessed from 1942-46. Collectively, 147 contests have been held. This year's contest in Kansas City was held November 15 and the Chicago competition on November 19.

Much of the UMC crop judging team's success has to do with the leadership and direction of long time advisor and UMC professor, Charles Habstritt. Nineteen of his crop judging teams have placed in the top three in the 34 competitions they participated in during the contest's history. Habstritt spends months preparing students for competition and this rigorous preparation is directly link to the teams' success. He is an associate professor in Agronomy and program manager in Plant Industries Management. Habstritt was named Outstanding Educator by UMC students n 2005 and his influence has been felt by generations of UMC students.

For more information on the agronomy major at UMC, please visit our website or call 1-800-862-6466.

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